Housing projects in Gujarat with foreign assistance

1870. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether housing projects have since been launched with foreign assistance in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the manner in which such assistance is being utilised;

(c) the number of houses built so far under construction together with locations thereof;

(d) what system has been adopted in allotment process of houses under construction; and

(e) the total number of houses proposed to be constructed in the State under these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Only one.

(b) to (e) Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) a private sector housing finance institution, has received a credit from KfW, Germany and has financed 66 houses for weavers belonging to Economically Weaker Section at Rampur in Gujarat through the Bhal Nalkhanta Khadi Gramodyog Mandal.

Foreign help for improvement of towns

1871. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Overseas Development Association of England has offered help for improvement of towns in the country;

(b) how many proposals have been forwarded for ODA assistance; and

(c) how many works are in progress at the moment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Nine projects have been forwarded to the Overseas Development Administration (ODA-UK). Out of these, works are in progress in seven projects which have so far been approved.

Availability of houses

1872. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the gap between demand and availability of houses in the country;

(b) the efforts being made by Government to provide houses at cheaper rates to weaker sections; and

(c) the details of various housing schemes under operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) As per the estimates of National Buildings Organisation, housing shortage as on 1.3.1993 has been estimated to be 33 million dwelling units (21.7 million in rural areas and 11.3 million in the urban areas).

(b) Housing being a State subject, State Governments are responsible for formulating and implementing all social housing schemes, including those for EWS households. The Central Government has supplemented the efforts of State Governments by launching various Central and Centrally Sponsored schemes for facilitating houses at cheaper rates.

To bring down the cost of housing, steps have been taken through various R&D Organisations to develop cost effective and innovative building materials and technology by utilisation of industrial and agricultural

wastes. To encourage production of cost-effective and waste based building materials, particularly those utilising fly-ash, phosphogypsum, red mud, etc., excise and customs duty exemption are available to these entrepreneurs. The cost-effctive materials and technologies are being disseminated through the National Network of Building Centres which is a Central Scheme in operation since 1988-89.

(c) The details of various housing schemes in the Central sector supplementing the efforts of the State Governments are as under:—

— Central sector scheme of shelter upgradation under NRY and night shelter and sanitation facility for urban footpath dwellers is under implementation since 1988-89.

— Indira Awas Yojana, a 100% Central subsidy scheme under rural housing, for poor SC/ST households and freed bonded labourers is under implementation by Ministry of Rural Development since 6th Five Year Plan. Since inception of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), a total number of 18,92,206 houses have been constructed.

— Ministry of Rural Development has launched during 8th Five Year Plan a new Centrally sponsored housing scheme for rural households below the poverty line with an outlay of Rs. 350 crores.

— 55% of HUDCO's housing funds are earmarked for EWS and LIG categories.

— HUDCO provided financial assistance for housing schemes for the benefits of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Groups (LIG) at lower rates of interest.

— A new scheme for grant of loan to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for implementation of house construction/upgradation programmes for the benefit of urban poor has been launched by HUDCO.

Demolishing old chimneys in Sarojini Nagar by CPWD

1873. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of allottees of Government flats in XY, YZ and Z blocks of Sarojini Nagar had in the recent past deposited their contributions with CPWD for demolishing old chimneys in kitchens of their flats and for providing stone slabs therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last one year and the number of chimneys demolished in these blocks during the said period;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in a number of flats the work has been left incomplete without providing the requisite stone slabs in the kitchens which is causing hardships to the housewives;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Four chimneys were demolished/repaired in Quarter No. YZ-49, YZ-50, YZ-51 and Z-50 in Sarojini Nagar.

(c) No work is left incomplete.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.